

THE CLAIMS

As amended, the claims of the application are:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising means defining a communication region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~of the like~~ and being responsive to a user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ can be selected ~~characterized in that a desired symbol or the like can be selected~~ by detecting movement of the pointing device along a predetermined bearing within the communication region, the predetermined bearing being substantially parallel to a direction of the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ relative to a central region of the communication region within a tolerance determined by the angular separation of adjacent symbols, ~~but not consisting of movement toward a selectable region associated with a desired symbol or the like~~ and being offset relative to the location of the symbol to be selected.

2. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a plurality of cells within a single communication region, each cell having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a linear manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement along the predetermined bearing to select a respective cell followed by further radial or circumferential movement to select the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated with the respective cell.

3. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and each being responsive to the user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement of the pointing device ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing within the region with which the desired symbol is associated.

4. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are eight communication regions, each region having associated therewith four symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in an orthogonal manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined orthogonal direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired region.

5. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are five communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol ~~or the like~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are four communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol ~~or the like~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are three communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol ~~or the like~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are two communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol ~~or the like~~.

9. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein two sets of communication regions are provided.

10. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one further region is provided separated from the first-mentioned regions for toggling between the first-mentioned set of symbols ~~or the like~~ and one or more further sets of symbols ~~or the like~~ to be associated with each of the regions.

11. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein means is provided for selecting a further symbol ~~or the like~~ arranged within an area encompassed by or adjacent to the first-mentioned symbols ~~or the like~~ of each region by tapping the area within the desired region.

12. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein means is provided for selecting further symbols ~~or the like~~ by employing a different form of movement from that required to select from the basic symbols.

13. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the further symbols ~~or the like may be~~ are selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device.

14. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the further symbols ~~or the like may be~~ are selected on the basis of a combination of movements.

15. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a curvilinear movement.

16. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement with a dwell at the beginning and/or end thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement in a first direction followed by a further linear movement reversing the preceding movement.

18. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise two sequential linear movements at a predetermined angle to each other.

19. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the region or regions are provided on a touch-sensitive pad or screen.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of communication in which a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ are associated with a communication region and a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ is selected by detecting movement of a pointing device ~~characterized in that a desired symbol or the like is selected by detecting movement of the pointing device~~ along a predetermined bearing within the communication region, the predetermined bearing being substantially parallel to a direction of the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ relative to a central region of the communication region within a tolerance determined by the angular separation of adjacent symbols, ~~but not consisting of movement toward a selectable region associated with a desired symbol or the like~~ and being offset relative to the location of the symbol to be selected.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein there is a plurality of cells within a single communication region, each cell having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a linear manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement along the predetermined bearing to select a respective cell followed by further radial or circumferential movement to select the desired symbol or the like associated with the respective cell.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and each being responsive to the user-controlled

pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement of the pointing device ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing within the region with which the desired symbol is associated.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are eight communication regions, each having associated therewith four symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in an orthogonal manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined orthogonal direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired region.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are five communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol ~~or the like~~.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are four communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a predetermined manner, a

desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol ~~or the like~~.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are three communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol ~~or the like~~.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are two communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols ~~or the like~~ arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol ~~or the like~~ being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol ~~or the like~~ associated therewith ~~in a predetermined direction~~ along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol ~~or the like~~.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein two sets of communication regions are provided.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein at least one further region is provided separated from the first-mentioned regions for toggling between the first-mentioned set of symbols ~~or the like~~ and one or more further sets of symbols ~~or the like~~ to be associated with each of the regions.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein means is provided for selecting a further symbol ~~or the like~~ arranged within an area encompassed by or adjacent to the first-mentioned symbols ~~or the like~~ of each region by tapping the area within the desired region.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein further symbols ~~or the like~~ are selectable by employing a different form of movement from that required to select from the basic symbols.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 31, wherein the further symbols ~~or the like~~ may be selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 31, wherein the further symbols ~~or the like~~ may be selected on the basis of a combination of movements.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a curvilinear movement.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement with a dwell at the beginning and/or end thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement in a first direction followed by a further linear movement reversing the preceding movement.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise two sequential linear movements at a predetermined angle to each other.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein the region or regions are provided on a touch-sensitive pad or screen.